

Newton Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes For October 7, 2021

Attendees: Alicia Geilen, Chair; Nancy Slombo, Vice Chair; Trisha McCarthy, Secretary; Kate Michaels, Selectmen's Liaison. Guests: Lorene Melvin, Louise Banister

Meeting was called to order at 7:24pm.

The two guests were introduced. Lorene Melvin is interested in joining the Conservation Commission, which was discussed under New Business. Louise Banister is an interested citizen.

Matters on the agenda were taken out of order.

Correspondence

- ZBA Notice of Decision for Charles and Wendy Doherty, 20 Wilders Grove Road, regarding a rehearing of their petition. The request for a re-hearing was denied on a 3 to 2 vote.
- Newton Planning Board Notice of Decision for Steven Harrington of 8 Georges Way to allow a home-based business. The request was unanimously approved subject to certain conditions.
- Newton Planning Board Notice of Decision for Melissa Hanson of 88 South Main Street to allow a home-based business. The request was unanimously approved subject to certain conditions.
- Newton Planning Board Notice of Decision for 125 Development Corp for a 4-lot subdivision at 6 Puzzle Lane. The request was conditionally approved by a unanimous vote subject to certain conditions.
- Newton Planning Board Notice of Decision for 125 Development Corp for a Special Use Permit – condominium conversion at 3 Puzzle Lane. The request was approved by a unanimous vote subject to certain conditions.
- Letter dated 9/23/21 from NH Association of Conservation Commissions with our invoice for FY 22 dues in the amount of \$300.00. It was moved by Slombo and seconded by McCarthy to pay the dues in April 2022, when they are due. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the last meeting were not available.

Old Business

1. Busch Farm

Geilen discussed the site visit that she had at the property on September 13, 2021, with Matt Tarr (UNH Cooperative Extension Biologist), Greg Jordan (UNH Cooperative Extension Forester), Also in attendance was Newton Planning Board member, Mike Andrews. Geilen also read a report that was written by Matt Tarr with recommendations. She will share the report with the Commission before the next meeting. Geilen noted the damage to trails and wetlands which are extensive. Geilen also noted that Kingston ConCom Chair, Evy Nathan had identified a rare plant

on the property: giant blue sage (*Salvia azurea*). When she went back to take a specimen for UNH, she says that several plants had been run over by OHRVs.

Geilen believes that the Commission should follow the report's recommendation and move to ban OHRVs on the property. She also talked about a report that she drafted after the site visit where she made some recommendations for the Commission's consideration. She will share it with the Commission as soon as it's finished. McCarthy said that she believes that a citizen's petition to allow OHRVs at the property passed a year or so after the property was acquired. Geilen will research this and report back. It was decided that the matter needed to be discussed at another meeting, to be held in two weeks (10/21/21).

2. Conservation property site walks

No new news

New Business

1. Annual Budget

Geilen presented the budget for level funding. Slombo suggested that additional funds be added for trail restoration work. Geilen put forward the idea of \$1,000, which would bring the total budget to \$3,933. Slombo moved to approve the budget of \$3,933. McCarthy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. New members

Lorene Melvin expressed her interest in joining the Conservation Commission. She has been a birder for over 50 years, and now also observes butterflies. Most recently, she took a UNH course on identifying and managing non-native invasive plants. Her experience includes garlic mustard removals at the Plum Island Wildlife Refuge; and Bittersweet and Japanese knotweed removal at Sargent Woods. She noted that the Marshall House has a Japanese knotweed infestation. Slombo noted that ConCom member Molly Wilson has moved out of town and no longer wishes to be on the Commission. This leaves a full-member position open, which is good until 2022. McCarthy moved to have Lorene Melvin take Molly's place. Slombo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn at 8:26 by McCarthy. Slombo seconded. Passes unanimously.